

and the late Jose Camacho Baza and Luis Camacho Baza; her loved one, Joseph Barroto; her siblings and their spouses, Evelyn Baza and Joseph F. Soriano, Leonard Rivera and Margaret Salas Baza, Rosa Duenas and Fred Manglona, Lucille Baza and Geronimo Castro, Luis Rivera and Marcia Woolley Baza, Barbara Baza and Daniel Ninete, Felisa Rivera Baza and Carisa San Agustin, Carmen Rivera Baza and Mark Timcoe, and her many relatives and friends.

CONGRATULATING MR. NENO SARTINI FOR HIS YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE ON BEHALF OF UNITED STATES MILITARY VETERANS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Neno Sartini, of Wilkes-Barre, PA, who is being honored for his many years of service to military veterans that stems from his unyielding love of country and those who serve to protect it.

Mr. Sartini graduated in 1948 from Plains Township High School. He subsequently enlisted in the United States Air Force and is a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He retired after 26 years of service with the rank of TSgt.

During his military service he was stationed in Greenland, Guam, Japan, and several stateside bases.

Mr. Sartini is a recipient of the Bronze Star, Republic of South Vietnam Medal of Honor, Army/Air Force Good Conduct Medal with silver clasp, Air Force Commendation Medal with silver clasp, and the Vietnam Campaign Service Medal with two stars.

In 1977, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the highest peacetime award given by the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Sartini is a recipient of the "Chapel of Four Chaplains" Legion of Honor Award, the American Legion's William Brace Award for Public Service, and the American Spirit Award for patriotism and service to country.

Mr. Sartini has logged more than 2,300 hours of volunteer service at the Wilkes-Barre Veterans Medical Center over a period of 13 years.

He was a driving force in the creation of the Luzerne County Vietnam War Memorial that reposes on the south lawn of the county Courthouse in Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Sartini has been a tireless advocate for all military service veterans and he has been an active member in the Italian American Veterans of Luzerne County where he served as commander. He served as vice commander of the Veterans of the Vietnam War Post 2 and is a member of the Korean War veterans of Luzerne County, Plains Township American Legion, Order of the Sons of Italy and Masonic Lodge, No. 61.

Mr. Sartini has been cited repeatedly over the years for his aggressive style of approaching all challenges, whether it be keeping military operating equipment in peak electrical condition and readiness; recruiting other

young men and women for service in the United States Air Force; advising community leaders on important issues of the day, or volunteering his time and expertise to improve the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Sartini. His love for this Nation and the men and women who have served in uniform to protect this land and the freedoms we enjoy as United States citizens knows no bounds. Clearly, Mr. Sartini has improved the quality of life for all with whom he comes into contact and, as such, he has earned our respect and deepest gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1021, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HONORABLE JUDGE EDGAR C. NEMOYER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, and an outstanding citizen of Buffalo and western New York, the Honorable Edgar C. "Mickey" NeMoyer. Mickey was a neighbor and a longtime friend and mentor; a great South Buffalonian, and a dear friend whose sudden passing this past weekend is a great shock to us all.

Mickey was born in Buffalo's First Ward in 1932, and soon after graduated from St. Theresa's Grammar School and Canisius High School, Mick pursued his higher education at Georgetown University, the University at Buffalo Law School, and the University of Wisconsin Law School. Later he shared his love and knowledge of the government process by teaching others as an Associate Professor at the State University of New York Albany Graduate School of Criminal Justice.

As a young man, Mickey served this Nation in the United States Air Force, rising to the rank of captain. Following military service, Mickey returned to the city of Buffalo and took a hands-on approach to law enforcement by joining the Buffalo Police Department, while at the same time working as a longshoreman as he made his way through law school. After earning his law degree he answered the call again, working in the general counsel's office of the U.S. Public Health Administration during the tenure of President John F. Kennedy.

Upon returning to Buffalo, Mickey began a long and distinguished career as an attorney and judge, working in private practice with the firm Boreanaz, NeMoyer, and Baker, and later serving as Deputy Corporation Counsel for the city of Buffalo. Mickey's legal and prosecutorial career flourished, as he served as an Assistant United States Attorney and later as First Assistant and Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of New York. His

distinguished career was capped by his service as a justice of the New York State Supreme Court and by his 17 years as a justice of the New York State Court of Claims.

As a judge, the law prohibited Mickey from engaging in partisan politics. But it was throughout this time that he became a great mentor to me and someone to whom I consistently looked for advice and counsel throughout my own career. Indeed, in January 1999, as a newly-elected member of the New York State Legislature, I was honored to have my oath of office administered by the Honorable Justice Edgar C. NeMoyer. Fittingly, it was his example that helped to drive my own ambition to serve.

In his retirement years, Mickey and his loving wife Josephine were regulars on the political circuit in south Buffalo and throughout Erie County. Dozens of elected officials and would-be officials sought his counsel, and he and Josephine were great supporters of Democrats throughout our region. It was delightful to see Mickey during these times; unfettered by the political constraints placed upon a member of the bench, he was free to express himself politically, and we were all the better for it.

Mickey's love for the law and for our community was surpassed only by his love for his family, including his brother, New York State Supreme Court Justice Patrick H. NeMoyer, his children, Patricia, Daniel and Michael, and the late Michelle and Nora, and his grandchildren, whom he loved and spoke about so often.

When someone you love passes on suddenly, we always express gratitude that our friend and loved one did not suffer, but pain remains for those left behind. I am thankful, Madam Speaker, that you have allowed me to recognize a great and proud son of south Buffalo, the late Honorable Judge Edgar C. NeMoyer, a devoted advocate and defender of the laws and principles on which this great Nation was founded. His work to make this community safer and stronger will be sorely missed though his spirit lives on through the many lives he touched.

"WHEN EVEN THE POWERFUL CAN'T SPEAK THE TRUTH"

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this important article on our colleague Congressman PETE STARK.

[From the Alameda Sun, October 26, 2007]
WHEN EVEN THE POWERFUL CAN'T SPEAK THE TRUTH

Rep. Fortney "Pete" Stark, D-Fremont, the normally calm, grandfatherly and moderate (for the Bay Area) congressman found himself at the center of a rhetorical hornet's nest last week after daring to tell his colleagues that paying for children's health insurance should come before throwing money at President Bush's bungling military adventurism.

With the president's approval rating at 24 percent, about as low as former President Nixon's was when he left office, according to a Reuters/Zogby poll released last week, it was only too predictable that Bush's few remaining supporters would immediately leap from their foxholes to shoot the messenger.

The messenger, in this case was Stark. His words were crude and offensive but his frank oration is admirable. Stark could have chosen his words more carefully, a fact the Democratic leadership made apparent when they dragged him behind the woodshed. But love him or hate him, Stark had the guts to speak in a way that most of his 434 colleagues won't.

Stark cut through the vapid pabulum that passes for political debate in this country; the junk-food rhetoric composed by spin-doctors, tested by focus groups, and proofread by campaign consultants and lobbyists. Just listen to what emanates from the mouths of the leading candidates of both parties in the lead up to November 2008. Or watch the drivel passed off as incisive political coverage on the 24-hour cable TV stations. Whether it's Hillary, Romney, Guiliani, Edwards, or McCain, not one policy or word is uttered without first being massaged and sanitized, calculated not to enlighten or lead, but to win votes without offending any demographic.

Obama, who was catapulted into second place in the polls because he appeared sincere in the spring, has receded after picking up the playbook of "serious candidate."

Stark got into hot water while speaking of the fundamental choice of policy-makers: one framed as "guns or butter." Eventually societies must choose between military spending and the needs of its citizenry.

The statement was uttered during debate on the House floor following Bush's veto of the popular State Children's Health Care Program (SCHIP), an \$11.2 billion annual program that helps poor parents buy health insurance for their children.

Compare that figure to this week's White House request for \$46 billion more to shovel into the quagmires in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to an estimate by the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, if the above figure is included, by the time the clock runs out on Bush's administration, U.S. taxpayers will be on the hook for \$808 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. That's roughly 10 times what Bush's father spent to humble Saddam Hussein in 1991.

China won't keep lending us that money forever. Sooner or later, the bill will come due.

What Stark actually told his colleagues: "The Republicans are worried that they can't pay for insuring an additional 10 million children."

"They sure don't care about finding \$200 billion to fight the illegal war in Iraq. Where are you going to get that money? Are you going to tell us lies like you're telling us today? Is that how you're going to fund the war?"

"You don't have money to fund the (Iraq) war or children. But you're going to spend it to blow up innocent people—if we can get enough kids to grow old enough for you to send to Iraq to get their heads blown off for the president's amusement."

These incendiary words launched an explosive backlash from pundits who immediately demanded Stark's head.

Stark was next criticized by the Democratic Party leadership, but survived a vote of official reprimand that Democrats tabled. Stark then publicly apologized Tuesday saying: "I want to apologize to my colleagues, many of whom I have offended, to the president, his family, (and) to the troops. I apologize for this reason: I think we have serious issues before us, the issue of providing medical care to children, the issue about what we're going to do about a war that we're divided about how to end."

If a U.S. congressman can be shouted down for speaking an essential truth: that blood

and treasure is being spilled in a perverse quest by the current resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. to outshine the legacy of his own father, these are truly dire days for our republic.

One wonders what reactions would spew forth from the mouths of those who vilify Stark had they read the words of another great American, a true Republican: Gen. Dwight David Eisenhower:

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

"We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."

Too bad his warning so quickly landed in the ashcan of history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1022. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING DEL RIO COUNTRY CLUB

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Del Rio Country Club on celebrating their 60th anniversary in business. A celebration in honor of this achievement is to be held on Saturday, November 3, 2007.

The Del Rio Country Club was founded in 1946 by a small group of community leaders. It was shortly after the end of World War II, gas prices were high and esteems were low. The local community leaders took the gently rolling terrain just north of Modesto, California and invited William P. Bell to design the original eighteen holes. In 1996, the course grew. Del Rio was granted permission from the Federal Government to use the 150 acres as a combination of riparian habitat and golf course. Architect Robert Muir Graves was asked to design a second nine hole course, the River Nine. Then in 1998, the course was updated one more time. Architect John Harbottle supervised the reconstruction of all tees, greens and bunkers on William Bell's original layout.

Today, the Del Rio Country Club has 2 courses. One course is overlooked by a club house that features the Redwood Dining Room. The Country Club also features tennis courts and other family activities. The course is ranked among the top 20 golf courses in Northern California.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Del Rio Country Club on 60

years of business. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Del Rio Country Club many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 968, on passage of H.R. 3678, the Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE STATE CHAMPION SCHOOLS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize and honor the 2006–2007 President's Challenge State Champion schools named by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. In particular, I would like to recognize two Tennessee schools, Percy Priest Elementary School in Nashville and Bartlett Elementary School in Bartlett, TN.

These two Tennessee schools have set examples that others would do well to follow. They have shown commitment to educating students on the benefits of physical activity and maintaining healthy lifestyles. Across the state of Tennessee, these two schools had the highest proportion of students scoring at or above the 85th percentile on the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test for the 2006–2007 school year.

To promote overall health and well-being, the President's Challenge program encourages all Americans to make being active part of their everyday lives. Percy Priest and Bartlett Elementary embraced these goals and in so doing succeeded in obtaining State Champion status.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the President's Challenge State Champions for being role models for other schools and for improving the overall health and well-being of their students.

HONORING THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NAPA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Christian Church of Napa, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. The Church has a storied history in the Napa Valley, where it has become a fixture in our community and an important place for people to come together and worship.